

Application No. 10/620,961

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for improving an electric link between a contact and a cable, the contact comprising a wall defining a cavity, the wall having an inner and an outer surface, and the cable comprising a plurality of strands, the strands of the cable being designed to cooperate with a wall of the contact, wherein the method comprising the step of:

pressing an intermediate conductive metal layer is pressed against this wall to make into the cavity and against the inner surface of the wall with a pressing means, the pressing means comprising a die and a punch, the die being placed around the outer surface of the wall and the punch adapted to drive the metal layer into the cavity and against the inner surface of the wall, wherein the strands cooperate electrically with the this metal layer upon insertion of the cable into the cavity.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein coefficients of expansion of the strands of the cable and of the contact define a range, wherein a coefficient of expansion of the metal layer is within the range defined by the coefficients of expansion of the strands of

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the cable and of the contact, ~~are different~~ and wherein ~~it is chosen to form~~ the metal layer is formed ~~[[out]]~~ of a ductile material.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the metal layer comprises a layer of silver or tin is chosen to ~~[[for]]~~ be~~[[ing]]~~ pressed against the inner surface of the wall of the copper contact designed to cooperate with the aluminum strands of the cable, and wherein the contact comprises copper and the strands of the cable comprise aluminum.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, further comprising the step of removing wherein the die is removed from the contact and ~~[[in]]~~ sectioning an ~~[[the]]~~ outer rim of the metal layer ~~[[so as]]~~ to form a collar at an aperture of the cavity.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein the ~~[[a]]~~ punch comprises made of hardened steel is chosen.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein the wall defines barrel has a hole to discharge ~~[[the]]~~ air contained in the cavity during ~~[[the]]~~ penetration by the punch.

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8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~an external~~ the inner surface of the wall of the contact against which the strands are placed and with which the strands ~~[[they]]~~ cooperate is covered by the metal layer.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~[[1]]~~ wherein the ~~[[a]]~~ metal layer is about 0.1 millimeter thick when an aperture of the cavity is about 1 millimeter, a depth of the wall is in the range of about 2 millimeters to about 5 millimeters relative to an axis of the cavity, and a thickness of the walls is about 0.1 millimeter, to accommodate elastic deformation is used.

10. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly comprising a contact and a cable, the contact comprising a wall defining a cavity, the wall having an inner and an outer surface and the cable comprising a plurality of strands, the strands of the cable ~~[[being]]~~ inserted into ~~[[a]]~~ the cavity of the contact, an intermediate conductive metal layer having been previously pressed beforehand against the inner surface of the wall of the cavity this wall by a method according to claim 1 with a pressing means, wherein the pressing means comprise a die and a punch, the die being placed around the outer surface of the wall and the punch adapted to drive the metal layer into the cavity and against the inner surface of the wall and wherein the strands of the cable cooperate electrically with the metal layer.

Please add new claims 11-16 as follows:

11. (New) A connector assembly according to claim 10, wherein coefficients of expansion of the strands of the cable and of the contact define a range, wherein a coefficient of expansion of

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the metal layer is within the range defined by the coefficients of expansion of the strands of the cable and of the contact, and wherein the metal layer is formed of a ductile material.

12. (New) A connector assembly according to claim 10, wherein the metal layer comprises silver or tin pressed against the inner surface of the wall of the contact and is adapted to electrically cooperate with the strands of the cable, and wherein the contact comprises copper and the strands of the cable comprise aluminum.

13. (New) A connector assembly according to claim 10, wherein the metal layer further forms a collar at an aperture of the cavity.

14. (New) A connector assembly according to claim 10, wherein the wall of the contact defines a hole to discharge air in the cavity during penetration by the punch.

15. (New) A connector assembly according to claim 10, wherein the inner surface of the wall of the contact against which the strands are placed and with which the strands cooperate is covered by the metal layer.

16. (New) A connector assembly according to claim 10, wherein the metal layer is about 0.1 millimeter thick when an aperture of the cavity is about 1 millimeter, a depth of the wall is in the range of about 2 millimeters to about 5 millimeters relative to an axis of the cavity, and a thickness of the walls is about 0.1 millimeters, to accommodate elastic deformation.